

# **Irwin A. Bock Award for Excellence in Public Administration - Community Environmental Stewardship Award**

*2008 Award Nomination Form*

*Awards will be presented at NWMC Annual Banquet on June 6, 2008.*

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*Use additional sheets for answers if necessary*

LIST SIGNIFICANT "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP HAS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (i.e., community recycling, Tree City USA, etc.).

## **Tree Preservation and Protection**

Urban tree planting is particularly valuable because trees benefit the environment in many ways. Over the lifetime of a tree, several tons of carbon dioxide are taken out of the air. Secondly, by providing shade and transpiring water, trees lower air temperature and, therefore, cut energy use. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notes that the "net cooling effect of one young, healthy tree is equal to ten room sized air conditioners operating twenty hours per day". Trees not only clean and cool the air they improve the water quality as well. According to the USDA Forest Service, "the planting of trees means improved water quality resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the groundwater supply".

Understanding the need for trees, Bartlett has offered the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program since the mid- 1970's. Under the program, homeowners and the Village share the cost of planting trees in the parkway. The resident selects the tree from an approved list and pays for half of the tree, the Village does the rest. Annually the Village budgets \$20,000 for this program with the average cost per tree ranging from \$293.00 to \$344.00. In the past five years the Village has worked with homeowners to plant 428 trees in the Village parkways. The Tree Corridor Program is another program for tree planting that has been utilized by the Village since 1990. This program identifies areas for tree planting along major roadways in the community. These roadways do not generally have adjacent homes, so are not eligible for the 50/50 tree program. To bring trees to these areas the Village developed this separate effort. Last year alone, 21 trees were planted under this program.

In 2001, the Village hired a full-time Village Arborist. One of his first accomplishments was creating a tree inventory. This inventory provided the

Village with the information to diversify the types of trees in the community. The Village Arborist has recommended less well known trees like Japanese Tree Lilac, Hill's Oak and Northern Catalpa in the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program to try and introduce some diversity into our street tree population. Having varied species of parkway trees is important to protecting the community's tree stock from disease or infestation.

### **Curbside Residential Recycling:**

Bartlett had one of the first a residential curbside recycling programs, in operation since 1998. This program has a consistent household participation rate of 95%. To promote participation in the program, each home is provided a recycling bin at no charge. In the calendar year 2007, the Village collected 4,556 tons of recyclable materials.

### **Clean Air Counts**

The Village of Bartlett became a member of Clean Air Counts on November 7, 2006, and just one month later, achieved Bronze Level status though this program on December 7, 2006. To achieve this status, the Village posted a brief description of the Clean Air Counts program on the Village's Health & Safety page on the Village's website. Within the description there is a link to the Clean Air Counts website. In addition, a full-page article detailing the importance of using low-VOC cleaning products was posted in the bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter, known as the *Bartletter*, is distributed to every household and business in Bartlett, totaling 14,328 issues distributed. Other information detailing clean air strategies for the home and workplace was distributed directly by the Building Department to any homeowner, business or contractor applying for a building permit. Finally, a letter describing the Clean Air Counts program was mailed to businesses applying for business licenses or a business license renewal.

### **Water Conservation**

The Village restricts outside watering by ordinance. Under the ordinance, residents with odd number street addresses are permitted to sprinkle only on odd numbered days of the month. Residents with even numbered street addresses are permitted to sprinkle only on even numbered days of the month. Additional outside water usage restrictions and sprinkling bans may be instituted by the Public Works Director at any time.

The Village's 2006 Annual Water Quality Report was mailed to each postal customer in the Village. The report included suggestions for water conservation and ground water protection.

Bartlett began to convert existing water meters to radio-read meters throughout our system. The meter replacement program began on February 1, 2005. To date 13,244 radio-read meters have been installed representing 99.2% of the system's 13,344 accounts. The new meters allow our staff to read each meter for usage each month. In prior years the Water Department staff could only read half of the meters in the community each month. This required the use of an "estimated read" every other month. The radio-read meters are an important

water conservation tool. The new meters allow residents to monitor usage and check for leaks on a regular basis, this saves both water and money on the resident's bill.

### **Land Use Planning and Stormwater Management**

Approved December 6, 2005 by the Village Board, the Town Center development is at the heart of Bartlett's recent downtown revitalization. The 10-acre mixed use project, located directly south of the community's brand new METRA station has brought a 135 unit, transit oriented residential development to Bartlett's Main Street.

Through the development planning process, the Village tries to encourage the use of naturalized detention to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Natural detention includes basins designed to temporarily retain runoff after a high intensity storm and also act as natural lakes or wetlands. These areas contribute to the creation of wildlife habitats and water pollution control. A good example of the use of natural detention is the 67 acre wetland that has served as a naturalized detention area for the Brewster Creek Business Park since its opening in 2000. Additionally, the Village enforces "no mow" areas in certain designated areas of smaller developments to protect wetlands used for natural detention.

### **Environmental and Energy Efficient Municipal Construction**

The new Village of Bartlett Village Hall began construction in 2004. The building's roof top is covered with white stones. The color of the stones reflects the sun, keeping the building cooler in the summer months. During a rain event, the stone works to slow the drainage on the roof and control the rate of runoff into the roof drains and off the building. On the interior of the building each office and department suite area has windows to encourage the use of natural lighting. Included in the building mechanics are water conserving faucets and drinking fountains; as well as lighting, heating and cooling systems that are controlled by timers to reduce energy use.

When the Village built two radium removal buildings in 2005 and 2006, to house radium removal equipment at two of its wells, they were constructed with Agriboard Panels which are environmentally friendly and sustainable commercial construction.

### **LIST "GREEN ACTIVITIES" YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP**

ACCOMPLISHED IN 2007 & 2008 (i.e., switching to recycling carts, joined Clean Air Counts, conducted an electronics recycling event, etc.)

### **Tree Preservation Ordinance Amendments**

On June 5, 2007 the Village Board approved amendments to Bartlett's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Under the ordinance, a tree survey and a tree preservation plan is required for all development activity requiring site plan review and approval, a special use permit, zoning for a planned development or a planned unit development or final plat of subdivision. The ordinance also

requires the developer to post a tree preservation bond and utilize additional tree preservation measures during construction.

### **Building Code Amendments**

The Village is increasingly concerned with the effects of development on the environment. Updating the Building Code with a focus on energy efficiency was an opportunity to address that concern. On May 1, 2007 Bartlett gave the “green light” to local building code amendments that encourage buildings with increased energy efficiency. With the adoption of the building code, the Village mandated additional energy efficient requirements recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy Green Building Council. The specific codes adopted are:

- The required use of energy efficient heating and cooling equipment with the “Energy Star” designation.
- Required increased attic insulation ( a minimum of R38).
- Requires all windows to be approved and labeled by the National Fenestration Rating Council to be in compliance with the International Energy Conservation Code.
- Architects or Engineers are required to certify that the design of all commercial and residential buildings to be constructed in the Village meet the International Energy Conservation Code and provide evidence compliance.
- Adopted the International Energy Conservation Code 2006 Edition.

Just one small change, in Bartlett’s case requiring Energy Star heating and cooling equipment in new construction, can have a big impact. A house with central heating could produce up to 10 tons of greenhouse gas. Since the adoption of our new code, thirteen new homes were permitted with Energy Star equipment. That is the equivalent of 250,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions eliminated.

### **West Bartlett Road Corridor Plan**

The West Bartlett Road Corridor Plan was approved by the Village Board on 2007. This corridor contains large areas of vacant and underdeveloped land, and a new Metra station is proposed for the STAR commuter line which offers the opportunity for transit-oriented development. Although the STAR line is still in the planning stages, the Village has secured a land donation for the future station site. The Corridor Plan recommends expansion of the bike path system, including connection of the existing paths at the east and west ends of W. Bartlett Road and providing a path to connect to the future STAR line METRA station. The establishment of a diffuse network of bike paths will encourage walking and biking.

The plan also promotes conservation and protection of environmentally sensitive areas. The landscape requirements utilized by the Village are expanded in the Corridor Plan. The landscaping recommended in the plan calls for plantings that reflect the native landscape features found in the conservations areas throughout

Bartlett. The plan also recommends that a minimum percentage of open space is set aside in each overall development, not including detention facilities or landscaped islands.

### **Greenest Compact**

On October 2, 2007 the Village Board passed a resolution endorsing the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact of Metropolitan Chicago. This compact calls on communities to voluntarily improve the region's air, water and land, reduce greenhouse gases, minimize waste and reduce energy consumption.

### **Clean Up Week**

Each year one week in June is dedicated to a community "Clean Up Week". This event provides an additional opportunity for our residents to take advantage of special recycling opportunities not normally available through our curbside refuse and recycling program. On June 8, 2007 the Village hosted its second electronic recycling event. On that day 300 pounds of electronic equipment was collected and recycled. The following day the Village hosted a gas can replacement event. At the event the Village collected old gas cans and handed out 35 new spill proof cans to residents. The spill proof cans are self-ventilating and help reduce air pollution by preventing gas and gas vapors from escaping into the environment. To wrap up the Clean Up Week, the Village hosted a shredder truck in the parking lot of Village Hall to provide residents the opportunity to shred documents for recycling. Approximately two tons of paper was shredded in the three hour event.

### **Automatic Bill Payment**

As a result of the radio-read water meter conversion, the Village was able to offer automatic bill payment service for water and sewer customers. According to the Electronic Payments Association, online billing can reduce negative environmental impacts. For every 38,000 bills received and paid electronically, one ton of paper is saved, two tons of trees are preserved, 16,450 gallons of water are saved, 1,941 pounds of solid waste is avoided, 60 pounds of air emissions are eliminated and 5,058 pounds of greenhouse gasses are avoided. The Village receives 2,464 payments electronically each month.

### **2008-09 Strategic Plan**

The Village Board identified a new goal for the Village of Bartlett 2008-09 Strategic Plan. The goal to "evaluate and promote, where possible, environmentally friendly development, purchases, awareness and programs" has been incorporated into the major goals for the community in the upcoming year. As a result of this goal, the Village's Annual Operating Budget included several items that were selected for purchase with an eye toward their environmental friendliness. For example, Energy Star rated copier and computer equipment, two hybrid cars, and the replacement of old evidence technician kits with kits that included non-carcinogenic fingerprint powder in the Police Department. The Village Board also approved a contract for cleaning services on April 1, 2008 which mandated the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products to be used at the Village Hall, Police Department and Bartlett Hills Golf Course.

## **Resident Education**

An entire issue of the Village newsletter was devoted to providing residents with information about what each resident could do to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, conserve energy and help our community to shift to a greener culture. This "Green Bartletter" went to all homes in August of 2007. The newsletter itself is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink. This information was again presented to the community via the Village's website and cable access channel.

The Village encouraged residents and businesses to participate in Earth Hour Chicago on March 29, 2008. This event encouraged people to voluntarily turn off the lights for an hour to make a statement about climate change.

On Saturday May 3, 2008 the popular "Home Improvement Day" will educate residents about how they can make their home more energy efficient and friendly to the environment. The Building Department staff will be on hand to explain the benefits of our new code requirements relative to increased attic insulation, higher rated windows and Energy Star heating and cooling equipment. Additionally, the participants will have the opportunity to check their carbon footprint, pick up a CFL light bulb, and receive a free hand powered flashlight. In keeping with the event's green theme, kids will also be treated to an appearance by "Ivy Man".

## **EXPLAIN WHY YOUR MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE AWARDED NWMC COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION.**

Bartlett's concern for the environment has been demonstrated by four decades of progressive and effective "green activities". The Village's efforts have been wide in scope, reasonable in cost, and produced immediate positive impact on the environment.

Recognizing the important role our tree stock has beyond community aesthetics, the Village took a multi-faceted approach to the planting and protecting of trees. These efforts were relatively simple and can be easily implemented throughout our community.

The same is true for Bartlett's Building Code changes. Focusing on the building envelope as a way to reduce energy use was a simple effort, and it addressed an often overlooked source of pollution. 16% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the energy used in houses nationwide. Energy efficiency and corresponding building codes are an effective strategy for reducing greenhouse gas immediately. According to the USEPA, if just one in ten homes use energy star heating and cooling products, the change would keep 18 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions out of our air.

These programs and the others listed in this application demonstrate that being a community environmental steward does not require the development of new technologies or great investment in alternative energy sources. Bartlett's

experience shows that there are a number of ways communities can lead the way to a cleaner and greener future today.